*FBI Chief's Notes Among 40,001 Pages* Evening Journal (Wil, Del.) 12/9/77

# Hoover : JFK Too Palsy With Reds

By HARRY F. ROSENTHAL

WASHINGTON (AP) — The late J. Edgar Hoover once said it was "entirely possible" that communists wanted to do away with John F. Kennedy because he was getting along too well with the Russians.

Six months after Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas by Lee Harvey Oswald, the FBI chief agreed with speculation that communists might have wanted to be rid of the president "so that this obstacle to their desired philosophy could be removed."

There was little elaboration to the remark, which was found among the 40,001 pages of FBI files on the Kennedy assassination opened this week to public view.

The reference was in the typed notes of an interview that Hoover granted to William Manchester, who had been commissioned by Kennedy's widow, Jacqueline, to write an account of the traumatic events surrounding the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination in Dallas.

"Manchester speculated that perhaps the communists, including Oswald, did not like the relationship between the late president and (Soviet Chairman Nikita) Khrushchev," the notes say. "The director replied that this was entirely possible ... The director told Manchester that he had always felt it better to kick individuals like Khrushchev on the shins once in a while rather than to boot-lick them."

The bulky FBI files show that detente between Russia and the United States apparently was first raised as a possible contributing motive for the assassination by Sanchez Bella, the Spanish ambassador to Italy.

Bella told reporters in Rome on Dec. 5, 1963 — 13 days after the Kennedy assassination — that Spain's intelligence services had established a possible link between Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, Oswald and the events in Dallas.

The ambassador cited Castro's concern about the improving relationship between the United States and the Soviet Union as a possible reason for wanting to see Kennedy killed.

Hoover said it was difficult to speculate on the motives of Oswald, whose interest in socialism and communism dated back to his mid-teens. Perhaps, Hoover mused, Oswald was aiming at Texas Gov. John Connally, a passenger in the presidential convertible who was seriously wounded by the assassin.

The 24-foot stack of papers released this week will be matched in January when the second half is made public. But still, skeptics of the Warren Report and its conclusion that Oswald acted alone, were less than pleased.

"I'll wait until the next 40,000 pages come out," said Mark Lane, author of "Rush to Judgment."

Many news organizations bought their own copies at $4,000.10. Others sent reporters to read at FBI headquarters. And in the first two days only 10-15 non-news people bothered to take a first-hand look.